

## John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, March 1, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

Roanoke, March 1, 1832.

*My dear Sir*, I have never received any letter from you that gave me so much pleasure as that which reached me by the last mail (tuesday night) which I recd. by express from Charlotte Court House; for I have to send four times a week 12 miles equal to 48 if Cocker<sup>1</sup> be not mistaken every week or lose a mail. And my case is without remedy, for on the whole road there is not one person who can read or write and hardly one that is not a sot or notorious receiver of stolen goods, from slaves instigated to steal by the wretched "House Keepers" who by the votes of Fenton

1 Referring to Edward Cocker's celebrated arithmetic.

Mercer<sup>2</sup> and Madison and Monroe! were made voters at our elections by our new Constitution.<sup>3</sup> and for that Constitution to my eternal shame and remorse I *voted* while the *white* Basis men who put into it all these villainous provisions refused the dose they had mixed for us and we eastern folks were such asses as to swallow the vile compound for fear the next dose would contain arsenick. For my part I wish I had dashed the poisonous chalice from my lips for if we are to be poisoned let it be with Prussic Acid or something that does it's office quickly instead of lingering in tortures, and dying by half Inches. But why intrude upon you our vile and nasty State politics.

2 Charles Fenton Mercer, M. C. from Virginia 1819–1841.

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3 The Virginia constitution was revised in 1830.

Yes my dear Sir, your letter has lifted a load from my mind and put me where I hope ever to stand *in my own Court* towards you—on a footing of unreserved confidence and esteem, and so long as I have this feeling in my own breast I shall feel assured of your reciprocal friendship for me. If Alexander be satisfied of the friendship of Hephestion he will care little about his estimation of his lieutenants. Now although you are not Alexander (that would be fulsome flattery) and I boast that I am something better than his minion, (the nature of their connexion if I forget not was *Greek Love*) yet if I could discern in your lieutenants an Eumenes, or even an Antigonos, Lysimachus, Perdiccas or Antipater he should have my voice.

I am glad for Mr Middleton's<sup>4</sup> sake that he has been slandered foully, in regard to the representations made to me of what he said in relation to me, and to you as Mr Miller (Thos. of Powhatan) always your friend represented to me.

4 Henry Middleton of South Carolina, Randolph's predecessor as minister to Russia.

As to him of South Carolina he is like his File leader the great *Bank* man and Nullifier. Hamilton is a noble fellow. He is your enemy—openly so but he has frankly and publicly sung his palinodia and abjuring the heresies of federalism, reconciled himself to *our church*. He is anti-Bank as every *real* state-right-man must be. As to Mr V. P. he and his man Friday the grand and lofty *tumbler* of the lower House and all their miserable *clique* they are politically dead. As dead as they and Duff Green will be at the close this century—physically. They have retrieved for V. B. his false move and forced him to reappear on the theatre which he ought never to have quitted, I mean the Senate, Where in three weeks he would render J. C. C. and his new allies Clay and Webster as harmless as the old man and woman in the vinegar bottle. . . . .